

Page 16:

✓ Line 2, change "in" to --is--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 16 and 17 in the manner indicated, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(a)(2)(ii), i.e., bracketed material is deleted from the claim and underscored material is added thereto.

Please amend claims 2-15 as stated, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(a)(2)(i).

1. (Once amended) A prosthetic [liner of generally tubular shape having a rounded, closed distal end and an open proximal end for receiving a residuum] apparatus, comprising:

a prosthetic liner of generally tubular shape having a rounded, closed distal end and an open proximal end for receiving a residuum;

a distal attachment plate secured to said prosthetic liner at ^{said} a distal end thereof;

a plurality of elongate arms extending from said distal attachment plate in a distal-to-proximal direction;

said elongate arms being circumferentially spaced apart with respect to one another;

said elongate arms being flexible in a radially inward and radially outward direction with respect to a longitudinal axis of said prosthetic liner; and

said elongate arms being formed of a predetermined material that is substantially nonstretchable in an axial direction;

whereby bending of the prosthetic liner in an anterior region thereof is not restricted by said elongate arms;

whereby said elongate arms and said distal attachment plate collectively spread the weight of a prosthesis attached to said distal attachment plate over substantially all of an inner surface area of said prosthetic liner, said inner surface area being sufficiently large to reduce a negative pressure in pounds per square inch exerted by said prosthesis during the swing phase of a gait to a sufficiently low negative pressure to substantially prevent milking of a residual limb.

Claim 2:

✓ Line 1, change "liner" to --apparatus--.

Claim 3:

✓ Line 1, change "liner" to --apparatus--.

Claim 4:

✓ Line 1, change "liner" to --apparatus--.

Claim 5:

✓ Line 1, change "liner" to --apparatus--.

Claim 6:

✓ Line 1, change "liner" to --apparatus--.

Claim 7:

✓ Line 1, change "liner" to --apparatus--.

Claim 8:

✓ Line 1, change "liner" to --apparatus--.

Claim 9:

✓ Line 1, change "liner" to --apparatus--.

Claim 10:

✓ Line 1, change "liner" to --apparatus--.

Claim 11:

✓ Line 1, change "liner" to --apparatus--.

Claim 12:

✓ Line 1, change "liner" to --apparatus--.

Claim 13:

✓ Line 1, change "liner" to --apparatus--.

Claim 14:

✓ Line 1, change "liner" to --apparatus--.

Claim 15:

✓ Line 1, change "liner" to --apparatus--.

16. (Once amended) A prosthetic liner of generally tubular shape having a rounded, closed distal end and an open proximal end for receiving a residuum, comprising:

a2 said prosthetic liner formed of a cushioning material selected from the group consisting of silicone, urethane, and thermoformable gels;

a plurality of elongate arms extending continuously from said closed distal end in a distal-to-proximal direction;

said elongate arms being circumferentially spaced apart with respect to one another;